

TRIAD News



*A cooperative effort between District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz
and Sheriff Joseph F. McDonough*



Special points of interest:

- Our Senior population are too frequently the victims of violent crime, property crime, consumer and telemarketer fraud.
- TRIAD empowers our seniors by providing them with leadership roles in their community.
- TRIAD educates our seniors by sponsoring crime prevention workshops and other programs.

What is the Plymouth County “TRIAD”?

The Plymouth County TRIAD is a partnership that consists of the District Attorney, the Sheriff, the local Police Chief, the local Fire Chief, the Council on Aging Director, S.A.L.T. Council Members, Seniors, and representatives from the supportive services that assist seniors in their community.

The role of the District Attorney and Sheriff is one of guidance and support. Every community that adopts the TRIAD approach is able to tailor the needs of TRIAD to their seniors.

TRIAD is a nationally recognized program in which Law Enforcement, Senior Citizens, Supportive and Protective Services, all work together to unify and implement the services that are currently available to seniors in their community.

Why has “TRIAD” been developed?

TRIAD has been developed to reduce the criminal victimization of our senior population and to enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to them.

Senior Citizens comprise the most rapidly growing segment of our population. One in eight Americans is already 65 or older. This statistic represents more than 33.6 million seniors. With increased life expectancy, new issues for the criminal justice system have arisen.

TRIAD assesses the needs of each community separately.

A community that may have a serious crime problem can utilize their TRIAD to focus on crime prevention and victim assistance.

A community that does not have a serious crime problem can utilize their TRIAD to concentrate on public safety initiatives to benefit their entire community.

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The D.E.C.I.D.E. Program

On September 16, & 17, 2004, The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office along with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department hosted a two day workshop called D.E.C.I.D.E. (Developing Elder's Choices in Defensive Education). The D.E.C.I.D.E program is a comprehensive program designed by Susan Kale, and Maureen Morrison, both of whom are law enforcement officers specializing in senior safety. The program is designed to educate seniors in crime prevention techniques to help them reduce the chances of becoming the victim of a crime.

The goal of the D.E.C.I.D.E. program is to teach seniors risk-reducing strategies using crime prevention techniques to enhance their personal safety both at home and in public.

By becoming more aware of their surroundings and by offering seniors choices regarding how to respond to different situations, they are given the option to take control. Learning to recognize and react to uncomfortable or unsafe situations is extremely difficult. The D.E.C.I.D.E. program will help seniors become better prepared.

"D.E.C.I.D.E. Safety Tip"

Awareness & Personal Safety

"Being aware of your surroundings is the most important component of personal safety."

"When walking you should pay attention to your surroundings. You should take note of who and what is in close proximity to you."

"Look at people walking near or towards you. This could be a psychological deterrent to a criminal."

"What's your Number?"

"What's Your Number?" is a house numbering initiative that assists the Police, Fire and EMT's in their efforts to respond quickly to 9-1-1 emergency calls. These responders know where every street is, but they do not know which house is yours. In an emergency situation, valuable time is lost if emergency responder crews can't easily see your house number. Large, easily visible street numbers that can be seen from the street in either direction will help.

The Rochester Triad has launched this initiative. S.A.L.T. Council member Maureen Walker states, "The house signs are for the entire community. In the fall, we'd like to send school children home with sign-up sheets for them." Maureen also noted, "That being a rural community, and not having many street lights in town makes this project even more important. *If it helps to improve the emergency response time, then the effort will be well worth it!*"



TRIVIA

Q: What is two-sided, highly reflective, and stands 4 inches tall?

A: A "What's Your Number?" house sign!

"Remember... every second counts!"

Minutes can save lives and your property!"

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Bridgewater TRIAD welcomes new seniors

The Bridgewater TRIAD will soon begin handing out “TRIAD Welcome Bags”. “The bags will be given to seniors who have recently moved into town” notes COA Director Lorraine Carrozza.

The TRIAD welcome bags are filled with senior safety items. They each contain: A Bridgewater TRIAD brochure, A “File of Life” refrigerator magnet, an “Are You Okay?” application, a map of Bridgewater, Safety Glow Sticks, an “Emergency Beacon Light” a “Top of the Hill” COA newsletter, memo pads and pens, as well as several other items.

Lorraine states, “Several of the items included in the bag were donated by local businesses and the Bridgewater Police Department...It’s a great way to welcome someone into the community!”



Brockton TRIAD recommends “Stashed for Safekeeping”

Brockton TRIAD recommends “Stashed for Safekeeping”. The Brockton S.A.L.T. Council has published a list of items that you and your family should maintain in a safe-deposit box, with your lawyer, a relative or very close friend.

They are:

- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate or proof of termination of a previous marriage
- Proof of Citizenship if a naturalized citizen
- List of all Bank and Savings accounts including the names of persons authorized to make withdrawals and sign checks
- Inventories of stored and shipped household effects
- Real Estate records: deed, mortgage papers, title abstract, title of insurance policy on house, survey of property, tax receipts, leases, receipts for any home improvements, and cemetery deed
- Insurance policies
- Social Security Cards
- Will
- Employment records, copies of any instructions entitling employee or survivor benefits such as insurance, pension or stock options

*Members of Brockton's
S.A.L.T. Council*



Right to Left:

Rose Gabriel,
Frances Sorgman,
Roberta Sulkowski,
Shirley Rice,
Pat Brindley
Harry Owens,

(not pictured)
Gene Tonelli and Mary Paul

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“File of Life ©” Program

The “File of Life®” is a miniature medical history that is kept in a red plastic sleeve with a magnetic strip. Once the history card is filled out, it is placed back in the sleeve. The magnetic sleeve is then placed on the refrigerator in a visible place.

The “File of Life®” details a person’s name, emergency medical contacts, insurance policy and social security numbers. It details current health problems, current medications and dosages. It lists allergies, recent surgeries, your doctor’s name and phone number, your health care proxy information and your religious affiliation.

In the event of an emergency the “File of Life ®” will be utilized by:

- ◆ **Police Officers**
- ◆ **Emergency Medical Technicians**
- ◆ **Fire Fighters**
- ◆ **Hospital Emergency Staff**

The “File of Life ®” is available by contacting the Plymouth County District Attorney’s Senior Protection Unit at: **508-584-8120**.

Combating Mail Fraud in Lakeville

On Friday, September 3, 2004, the Lakeville Council on Aging hosted an educational forum on Mail Fraud. United States Postal Inspector Alan E. Douillette addressed a crowd of thirty seniors, regarding the current scams and frauds that are currently plaguing our area. He conducted a presentation on Mail Fraud Prevention, as well as an explanation of the critical role the U.S. Postal Service plays to keep our residents safe.

Some Safety Tips he recommends:

- Be leary of Sweepstakes where you have to **pay to play**.
- **Do Not** participate in foreign lotteries, such as El Gordo Lottery- they are illegal!
- **Never** wire money for fees to claim a prize. You will be giving the scam artist your personal financial information, as they could sell it to others.

For more information on the Plymouth County TRIAD, Please contact
Barbara Faherty
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Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office
508-584-8120.



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